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ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 14, 1870.

The Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, 14th April, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Recording Secretary read the record of the stated meeting in March, and of the special meeting in the same month.

The Librarian read the list of donors to the Library the past month.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter of acceptance from Thomas Carlyle.

The President then spoke as follows:—

You are aware, gentlemen, that this is our Annual Meeting; but, agreeably to usage, we proceed with our regular monthly business before entering on the more formal routine of Annual Reports and Elections. Before we pass, however, to any thing of a merely business character, it is fit that I should remind you that, since we met last, two names on our rolls have ceased to be the names of living members. One of them is the name of an Honorary Member, who was the contemporary and associate of Irving and Paulding and Sands and Cooper and Bryant of New York. The other is the name of a Resident Member, who was the associate and friend of our own Prescott and Everett and Sparks and Ticknor, and of others whom I see around me.

The name of the Honorable Gulian C. Verplanck, LL.D., has stood, for several years past, first in the order of seniority on our Honorary Roll. He was elected on the 27th of January, 1820,—more than fifty years ago. He died in the city of New York, his native place, on the 18th of March last, in the eighty-fourth year of his age.

Mr. Verplanck was a graduate of Columbia College, and a lawyer by profession. His life was, however, mainly devoted to politics, literature, and works of public usefulness. He was a representative in the Legislature of New York as early as 1814; and, after several years' service in that capacity, he was elected a representative in Congress in 1825, and was a conspicuous and valuable member of the National Councils for eight years. He subsequently served for some years in the Senate of his native State.

His labors, however, during this period were by no means confined to political subjects. In 1818, he delivered a lecture before the New York Historical Society on "The Early European Friends of America," which attracted much attention and passed through several editions. In 1821, he was chosen to a Professorship on "The Evidences of Christianity" in the General Episcopal Seminary established at New York, and not long afterwards published a collection of essays on "The Nature and Uses of the various Evidences of Revealed Religion." In 1825, he published a work, well known to the Bar, on the "Doctrine of Contracts." In 1827, he was associated with the late Robert C. Sands and with William C. Bryant in publishing one of the earliest of our American Illustrated "Annuals," called the "Talisman," of which three volumes were issued in successive years, and afterwards all republished, with the names of the authors, in 1833. During the same year, Mr. Verplanck published a volume of his collected "Discourses and Addresses on Subjects of American History, Arts, and Literature." Many other Discourses and Addresses were delivered by him in subsequent years; and between the years 1844 and 1847 he published an edition of Shakspeare, in three volumes, with illustrations and annotations, which gave ample evidence of his taste and accomplishments as an editor and interpreter of the immortal dramatist.

About this same year, 1847, the Board of Emigration Commissioners was established in New York, for the protection of

foreigners when first arriving on our shores, and Mr. Verplanck was immediately elected its President, — an office which he continued to hold and discharge with great zeal and energy until his death. He was connected, too, with many other boards and bodies of a charitable or religious character, and rendered valuable service to them all.

Nor did his literary labors entirely cease but with his life. Besides the annual reports which he prepared for fifteen years on the subject of emigration, and which were published in a volume in 1861, his “Twelfth Night at the Century Club,” in 1858, and his Address on the opening of the New Tammany Hall on the 4th of July, 1868, — when he was eighty-two years old, — afford ample evidence that neither mind nor pen nor tongue had lost their cunning. He was active and vigorous and genial to the last. He seemed to have something of the strength and hardiness of one of those noble trees which adorn the park of the old manor house on the Hudson, in which he passed his summers. His leaf did not wither. His ruddy countenance and flowing silver locks have more than once recalled to me our own Leverett Saltonstall, the elder, as we knew him here a quarter of a century ago, and he could hardly have recalled a more cherished friend. Like him, he was a man whose warmth of heart and kindness of manner and earnestness of purpose endeared him to all who knew him, and he will be remembered by them all as a man whom it was a privilege to know.

The Rev. Nathaniel Langdon Frothingham, D.D., died in this city on the 4th inst., in the seventy-seventh year of his age. Among the large congregation which attended his funeral, on the 6th inst., at the First Church, of which he was so long the pastor, were the officers and many of the members of this Society; and an admirable eulogy was delivered on that occasion by one whom we are glad to count among our immediate associates.

Dr. Frothingham was elected a member of our Society in 1843; and, until his infirmities confined him to his house, his presence at our meetings was as punctual as it was welcome. He took a warm interest, and sometimes a prominent part, in our proceedings. His impressive tribute to our lamented Prescott, and his charming verses when "the Crossed Swords" were transferred from Prescott's library to our own, cannot be forgotten by any one who had the good fortune to hear them. Nor shall we soon forget, I am sure, his last appearance among us, but a few years since, when, his sight having already failed him, he was led into these rooms by a devoted son, and paid an off-hand but touching tribute to the eloquence of the late Rev. Dr. Hawks, of New York, whose death had been on that morning announced.

Of Dr. Frothingham, as a preacher, it hardly becomes me to speak. I may be permitted to say, however, that of the only two sermons which I can remember as ever having heard from his lips, the texts of both, and the treatment of those texts, are as distinct in my memory, after a lapse of more than thirty, it may be more than forty, years, as if I had listened to them yesterday.

And this leads me naturally to the very few remarks upon his character and career which I shall venture to make in presence of so many of those who have been associated with him as classmates at school or at college, as pastors of sister churches, or, it may be, as parishioners of his own church, or as life-long friends and associates in theological or literary pursuits. To them it peculiarly belongs to bear testimony to his virtues and his accomplishments.

Whether as preacher, as scholar, or as poet,—for in all these relations he has enjoyed a high distinction in our community,—there was a force and felicity in his style, a picturesqueness of conceit and imagery, a fervor and glow of thought and diction, which made all his utterances impressive and memorable. He spoke and wrote from the fulness of a

warm heart and an earnest, noble spirit. Deeply imbued with a scholarship and a learning which had rendered him familiar with the best productions both of ancient and modern literature, his acquisitions only served to give richness and variety to the illustration of topics of which his own heart and mind were full. He occupied himself with no elaborate disquisitions or abstruse philosophies, but poured forth from time to time, from a rich storehouse of memory or imagination, sometimes in prose and oftener of late in verse, such words and thoughts as befitted the hour or the occasion. His heart seemed always intent upon the events which he witnessed, and always in sympathy with the joys or sorrows of those around him.

He had the strongest appreciation for the beautiful and the noble, in every form in which they are manifested to the sense or the soul,—in nature, in art, in music, in literature, in action, in character. It has happened to me to be with him in Rome, among the glorious remains of classic art; and in Switzerland, also, amid some of those wonderful scenes of pure, original, majestic nature. Frequently, too, some years ago, I have chanced to walk with him, at his favorite hour, and along his favorite path, across our own beautiful Common, towards the setting of an autumn sun. Everywhere he was filled with rapture for whatever was grandest or loveliest in the works of God or of man, and few men have known better how to give expression to such emotions. Not a few of his verses, whether original or translated, have lifted the hearts of hearers and readers, as they have lifted his own heart, in hours of trial or of devotion; and some of them cannot fail to have a permanent place in the occasional poetry, religious or secular, of our land.

I will not attempt to speak of the resignation and fortitude with which he bore the heavy load of personal deprivation and suffering, under which he has been withdrawn from us for some years past. It would seem, to any one who has been privileged to visit him during these days of darkness, as if he

must have caught the full spirit of a stanza of one of those inspiring German hymns, which he has translated with so much feeling and beauty :

“ Be brave, my heart ! and weary
Grow never in the strife :
The peace of God will cheer ye
With trust and strength and life.
Be vigorous, not complaining,
And every effort bend :
This very day, at waning,
May see the conflict end.”

Happily for him, the conflict has at last ended ; and it only remains for us to do justice to his memory.

I am instructed by the Standing Committee to offer the following resolution : —

Resolved, That in the death of the Rev. Nathaniel L. Frothingham, D.D., this Society has lost one of its most respected and accomplished Associates, and that the President be requested to appoint one of our number to prepare a Memoir of him for our volume of Proceedings.

The Resolution was seconded by Dr. WALKER, who said, —

MR. PRESIDENT, — In moving the adoption of the Resolution I feel that the remarks with which you have introduced it have left me but little to say.

Dr. Frothingham represents a class of clergymen more common formerly than now, who are at once clergymen and scholars, and who are drawn to the profession, in part at least, by the opportunity it affords for scholarship. He was, I suppose, more of a scholar than a theologian ; though his scholarship was not without its effect on his professional studies, especially in matters of history and criticism. He loved books, and his mind was ever open to new truth, but he took comparatively little interest in new measures ; indeed, he can hardly be said to have had a single quality of mind or heart fitting him to become a platform orator. I say not this to his dispraise. Meanwhile he was an example to us all in the faithfulness and painstaking with which he prepared himself,

week after week, for the pulpit, where his success would have been greater than it was except for the circumstance that many of his felicities of thought and expression could only be appreciated by scholars like himself.

Several of his hymns and other poems are not only exquisitely finished, but breathe a profoundly devotional spirit, and show that the author knew how to commune with God. In general society there was often a reserve upon him which some may have construed into coldness or indifference; but to his intimate friends his manner was singularly gentle and tender and affectionate. This made him very dear to them, and it makes his memory very dear to them.

Dr. LOTHROP also addressed the meeting, and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Hedge was appointed to prepare the Memoir of Dr. Frothingham for the Society's Proceedings.

The President presented a number of pamphlets from our Honorary Member, Count Circourt, containing articles written by him; namely, the numbers of the "*Annales Franc-Comtoises*," &c., for September and October, 1869, containing "*Mémoires de Jules Chiflet, Abbé de Balerne*"; the "*Bibliothèque Universelle et Revue Suisse*" for April, 1868, and July, 1869; the former containing an article entitled "*Le Journal d'une Reine*," being a notice of "*Leaves from the Journal of our Life in the Highlands, from 1848 to 1861, edited by Arthur Helps*. London: Smith, Elder, & Co., 1868"; the latter containing a review of a work entitled "*Marie-Antoinette, Reine de France, par James de Chambrier, 2 vols. in 8vo. Neuchâtel, London, et Paris, Hachette, 1868*"; and a pamphlet entitled "*La Confédération Suisse*. Paris: Charles Dounoil, Libraire-Editeur, 29 Rue Tournon, 1870." The President was requested to acknowledge the above.

The President also presented the Prospectus of the "*Codex Diplomaticus Cavensis*," a publication proposed to be made of one of the treasures of the monastery of La Cava, one of "the

once mighty and still splendid monasteries of the kingdom of Naples." The Prospectus was transmitted by Count Circourt, who says of these monasteries: "They have been threatened with dissolution; but, upon the unanimous voice of the literary world (Dean Stanley has been most active for their preservation), they have been spared, — not, indeed, as convents, but as repositories of the national archives and as literary institutions. . . . Now, they do endeavor to publish the inedited and almost infinite riches of their archives. Nothing in the shape of ecclesiastical and canonic matters: the whole relates to the civil rights, the legislation (especially of the Lombard principalities), the general and provincial history, the commercial relations and connections with the Mussulman world during the Middle Ages. In a word, the mere reading of the Prospectus will convince you that no publication could be of more use to students than this one; but the editors must be helped. I wish greatly that, through your kind mediation, some of the great literary establishments of your country would subscribe to the Codex Cavensis. America has, of late, done wonders in founding universities and collecting libraries: few better occasions can occur for enriching these recent and already opulent collections."

The President also read a letter from Mrs. Jules Marcou, of Paris, a grand-daughter of Dr. Jeremy Belknap, addressed to our Associate Mr. Ticknor, in which she speaks of an article in the Boston "Daily Advertiser" of the 12th of March last, on the subject of the "Boston Massacre," so called. In this article reference is made to the testimony of one Jeremiah Belknap, supposed by the writer to be the historian of that name, as to what was witnessed by him on that fatal evening of the 5th of March. Mrs. Marcou desired to correct this statement, saying that Dr. Belknap at this time was a settled minister at Dover, and that the person referred to was an uncle of the historian.

Mr. Deane read a letter from Judge Henry F. French, of

Concord, Mass., communicating the article referred to by Mrs. Marcou, of which he was the writer. In the article, mention is made of a William Merchant, one of the young men who was present at the affray on the evening of the 5th of March, as being of a well-known family in Boston, and as having descendants of great respectability, among whom was the wife of Judge French. A portrait of Merchant, painted in 1755 — the family tradition says, by Copley — when the subject of it was a child, at the age of five years, is in the possession of Judge French.*

The President, referring to a discussion before the Society a few years since, as to whether persons said to have attained the age of one hundred years were really so old as alleged, read an account from the "New York Observer" of March 17th, of a banquet given on the 9th of March by General J. Watts De Peyster, of that city, to Captain F. Lahrbush, in honor of his *one hundred and fifth* birthday. General de Peyster gave a sketch of this wonderful man. The "Observer" says, —

"He was born in England, March 9th, 1766. At the age of twenty-three he entered the British army. He was with Lord Nelson when Copenhagen was taken; he was in the battle of Jena; he saw the famous interview between Napoleon and Alexander, in 1807, at Tilsit, on the raft; he was shot in the leg at Valencia, in 1808; he was on the field at Corunna, where Sir John Moore was killed. At the battle of Busaco, in 1810, he was wounded in the head and left for dead on the battle-field. Afterwards he was in the army in South Africa, and for three months was one of the British guard over Napoleon, at St. Helena. In 1818, at the age of fifty-two, he sold out his commission in the army, and travelled extensively

* A second article written by Judge French, giving more full details of the genealogy of the Merchant family, appeared in the "Daily Advertiser" (Supplement) of May 12. In this he shows that the portrait was probably painted two years later than the date given above, the subject of it having been born April 13, 1752. The error detected by Mrs. Marcou, as to the identity of the Jeremiah Belknap mentioned in the former communication, is also corrected. — Eds.

over the world, coming to this country in 1848, and taking up his residence in this city, where he is enjoying the evening of his days. Thus his reminiscences go back through his own experience and those of intimates, to the days of Prince Eugene and Charles XII., the 'Hero of the North.' He was well acquainted with Blucher, who was a subaltern in the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), in which Schwerin (companion in arms of Marlborough and Prince Eugene, and born in 1684) was a field-marshal. Thus from soldiers of high rank (whom he met in Prussia in 1806-7) he heard stories of the wars of the seventeenth century from the lips of conspicuous actors therein. And thus by eye and ear he has seen and heard the development of two centuries. It is wonderful to reflect that this man, moving intimately and daily among us, here present, drinking, eating, and conversing with us, conversed, ate, and drank with men who knew other men who could relate stories of their own adventures when this city was a mere Dutch trading-post, and at a date when the French had as yet only established military posts along the tide-waters of Canada.

"He is somewhat peculiar in his habits, rising at 3 o'clock, A.M., and taking a light breakfast; walking out at daylight, dining at 1, taking tea early and going to bed before 7 in the evening. His mental faculties are as bright as ever. He hears acutely and has good eyesight. His memory, even of *recent* events, is excellent. He takes a deep interest in matters and things around him, and is a pleasant, genial companion. As he rose to leave the table, he said, 'God bless you, gentlemen; I hope to meet you often on these interesting occasions; ten years hence, I hope we will have had ten of these meetings.' He shook hands cordially with each guest, and walked off to his home as spry as any one of the company.

"Captain Lahrbush deserves to be mentioned among the most extraordinary examples of longevity on record. His record is in itself remarkable, apart from his age; and this

extension so far into the second century of life, with his faculties unimpaired, renders him perhaps the most remarkable instance of longevity now in the world." *

The business of the Annual Meeting was now taken up.

Mr. SOLOMON LINCOLN, from the Committee appointed to nominate a list of Officers of the Society, reported the following names; which were adopted by the Society:—

President.

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, LL.D. BROOKLINE.

Vice-Presidents.

HON. CHARLES F. ADAMS, LL.D. QUINCY.

HON. EMORY WASHBURN, LL.D. CAMBRIDGE.

Recording Secretary.

CHARLES DEANE, A.M. CAMBRIDGE.

Corresponding Secretary.

REV. CHANDLER ROBBINS, D.D. BOSTON.

Treasurer.

HON. RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, A.M. CHARLESTOWN.

Librarian.

SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D. BOSTON.

Cabinet-keeper.

HENRY G. DENNY, A.M. BOSTON.

Standing Committee.

REV. GEORGE W. BLAGDEN, D.D. BOSTON.

HON. JAMES M. ROBBINS MILTON.

HENRY W. TORREY, A.M. CAMBRIDGE.

THEODORE LYMAN, Esq. BOSTON.

REV. HENRY M. DEXTER, D.D. BOSTON.

For the Committee.

SOLOMON LINCOLN.

BOSTON, April 14, 1870.

The Reports of the Standing Committee, the Librarian, the Cabinet-keeper, and the Treasurer were severally submitted and adopted; Mr. MASON, from the Committee on the Treasurer's account, having certified to its correctness.

* The above account had been sent to the President by the venerable Charles Cleveland of this city, who is himself ninety-eight years old.

Report of the Standing Committee, for the year 1869-70.

The Standing Committee would hereby respectfully offer their Report of the transactions of the Society during the year just ended, and the present condition of the Society, in accordance with its By-laws.

The Society has so quietly pursued its way that there is but little to mark its history the past year.

The regular monthly meetings have been held, and these have been well attended, and with increasing interest. In addition to those held at the rooms there have been several social meetings. The first was the regular June meeting, which took place at the residence of the President of the Society, in Brookline, and the October meeting was held at the residence of our Associate Member, Amos A. Lawrence, Esq., in Longwood. Both of these were rendered the more interesting from local historical reminiscences. Two social evening meetings have been held. In December last, on the anniversary of the "Landing of the Pilgrims," the Society met, by invitation, at the house of our Associate Member, Robert M. Mason, Esq., where papers of an historical nature were read; and in February was a meeting at the house of the Treasurer, Mr. Frothingham, in Charlestown, on which occasion he read an able paper on the "Declaration of Independence." Your Committee think these meetings have a good influence in keeping up the interest of the members, and trust that arrangements may be made to repeat them.

The duty of examining the Library has been performed as required by the by-laws, and the Committee have the satisfaction of reporting the same in excellent condition, every volume being found in its place. For a more particular account of its increase and its wants, we refer to the report of the Librarian, which will be laid before the meeting.

The whole number of volumes, including the Dowse Library,

is nearly 19,000, and the number of pamphlets exceeds 31,000.

The necessity of more shelf-room still exists; but we trust the time is now near when, by the remodelling of the building, these pressing wants will be supplied.

The Committee have frequently had the subject of the alteration and improvement of the building occupied by the Society under consideration. The lease of the lower story will expire in one year from this time, when it will be desirable to commence immediately upon the improvement. Within the past month your Committee have caused plans to be drawn by an architect, with a view to ascertain the best mode of effecting the object, and also the probable cost. With only rough estimates it is supposed that the building can be enlarged and made in every way convenient, and, so far as possible, made fireproof, for about \$22,000. This sum, we trust, could be raised by subscription, and thus leave the present resources of the Society untouched.

For the present state of the finances the Committee refer to the report of the Treasurer, always clearly and definitely shown, and which will in this case exhibit satisfactory results.

At the last annual meeting our Resident Roll consisted of ninety-eight members. Four members have since been elected, and the list now contains the names of ninety-nine members. Three Resident Members have died during the year. Five Corresponding Members and one Honorary Member have been elected, while six Corresponding Members and one Honorary Member have passed away.

A new volume of Proceedings has been issued during the year, and another is in progress in the form of serial numbers, four of which are now printed, and the transactions brought down to the present meeting. Two volumes of Collections are now in press, one of which is a continuation of the valuable Winthrop Papers, and the other a volume of Aspinwall Papers relating to Virginia. A volume of great historical

interest and value has been printed, being the course of Lectures delivered by the members of the Society at the Lowell Institute during the winter of 1868-69. Several papers of interest have been read at the stated meetings of the Society which have been printed in the Proceedings.

The Cabinet is steadily increasing in interest and value, the details of which will be laid before you in the report of the Cabinet-keeper.

The Committee are happy to congratulate the Society upon its continued prosperity and usefulness. At no time has it stood higher or been more useful to the community than now. Its archives, always open to the public under its regulations, are consulted more than ever before, and supply rich material in aid of historical research. While we hold the rank of being the oldest historical society in the country, may we strive to be among the most useful and influential.

For the Committee.

WILLIAM G. BROOKS, *Chairman.*

The Report of the Treasurer.

GENERAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL, 1870.

DEBITS.

Frederick H. Hedge, Jr., salary	\$1,172.16
George Arnold	892.71
Insurance	404.65
Incidental expenses	484.76
City of Boston, Tax of 1869	685.00
" " Betterment	40.00
Printing	234.13
Binding	43.64
Coal	89.00
Appleton Fund	732.18
Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund	269.57
John Wilson & Son, printing Lectures delivered before the Lowell Institute	2,003.41
	<u>\$7,051.21</u>

CREDITS.

Balance from old account	\$325.90
Suffolk Savings Institution, rent	2,200.00
" " " taxes	685.00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$3,210.90</u>

Amount brought forward	\$3,210.90
Coupons, Quincy & Palmyra Railroad	80.00
„ Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad	80.00
Assessments	578.00
Admissions	40.00
Sales of Society's Publications	1,881.55
Copyright of sales of Life of J. Q. Adams	4.20
Hon. John A. Lowell, for Thirteen Lectures before the Lowell Institute, balance	703.41
John E. Thayer & Brothers, interest	118.63
Sundries	1.50
Balance to new account	353.02
	<u>\$7,051.21</u>

The undersigned who were appointed a committee to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the Massachusetts Historical Society for the year ending April, 1870, have compared the vouchers with the entries and find them correct, and the balances on the ledger as follows:—

DEBITS.	
Appleton Fund	\$133.20
General account	353.02
Cash	2,120.51
	<u>\$2,606.73</u>

CREDITS.	
Massachusetts Historical Fund	\$1,762.43
The Peabody Fund	844.30
	<u>\$2,606.73</u>

ROBERT M. MASON, }
N. THAYER, } *Committee.*

Boston, April 12, 1870.

THE APPLETON FUND.

Account ending April, 1870.

DEBITS.	
Balance due the Treasurer	\$666.58
Benj. Bradley & Co., binding, &c.	27.72
John Wilson & Son, printing volume IX. of Collections	171.08
	<u>\$865.38</u>

CREDITS.	
One year's interest of the Fund	\$732.18
Balance due the Treasurer	133.20
	<u>\$865.38</u>

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL TRUST-FUND.

The accumulation of income to September 1, 1868, was \$1,492.86, making the amount on which to cast the interest from September 1, 1868, \$4,492.86.

Account ending Sept. 1, 1859.

DEBITS.	
Balance to new account	\$1,762.43
	<u>\$1,762.43</u>
CREDITS.	
Balance of old account	\$1,492.86
Interest one year on \$4,492.86, to September 1, 1869	269.57
	<u>\$1,762.43</u>

THE PEABODY FUND.

The Proceedings for 1866-67 and 1867-69 were printed from the income of this Fund, and another volume is passing through the press.

Account to April, 1869.

DEBITS.	
Paid John Wilson & Sons, printing Proceedings	\$1,089.18
" " " "	412.62
Paid Benj. Bradley & Sons, binding	90.90
" " " "	64.00
Charles A. Cutter	50.00
Balance to new account	844.30
	<u>\$2,551.00</u>
CREDITS.	
Balance of old account	\$1,225.38
Proceeds of Coupons of September	750.00
" " March	575.62
	<u>\$2,551.00</u>

For an account of the "Dowse Fund," and of the "Property of the Society," see the Treasurer's account of last year, no change having taken place.

THE INCOME.

The income of the Society consists of an annual assessment on each resident member of seven dollars, or, instead, the payment of sixty dollars; the admission-fee of ten dollars, of

new members; the rent of the lower floor of the Society's building; the sales of the publications of the Society; the sales of the "Life of John Quincy Adams"; the interest on the Peabody Fund; a bond of \$1,000; and a note of \$1,000.

The books are sold at the Society's rooms. The total sales the past year amounted to \$1,881.55, of which \$1,000.85 were from the sales of the Lectures delivered before the Lowell Institute.

In 1868, the Society received a legacy of \$2,000 from the late Henry Harris, Esq., one-half of which was invested in a Coupon Bond of the Quincy & Palmyra Railroad Co. The remainder has been invested in a Coupon Note of the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad Co. Both securities bear eight per cent interest, and are free of government tax. No conditions were attached to this legacy; and, if thought desirable, it may be constituted into a permanent fund.

The proceeds of the Peabody Fund, the next year, will be ample to meet the publication of the volume of Proceedings in the press, and a volume of Collections may be printed out of the general funds of the Society.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, *Treasurer.*

Boston, April 12, 1870.

Annual Report of the Librarian.

The Librarian has the honor to submit his Annual Report.

The accessions during the year have been above the average number, and of a valuable character. They may be put under the following heads:—

Books	550
Pamphlets	3041
Bound volumes of newspapers	10
Unbound volumes of newspapers	4
Amount carried forward	3605

Amount brought forward	3605
Separate numbers of newspapers	375
Maps	30
Plans	3
Broadsides	49
Volumes of manuscripts	20
Manuscripts	21
Fac-similes of manuscripts	5
Manuscript maps	2
	<hr/>
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Of the books added, 365 have been given, 78 have been procured by exchange, and 105 bought. Of the pamphlets added, 2720 have been gifts, 313 exchanges, and 8 bought. There have been 64 volumes and 136 pamphlets (duplicates), exchanged. These exchanges have been made, for the most part, with other libraries, and in making them the Librarian has had the sanction of the Standing Committee. By this means books which were wanted for the Library have been obtained, as well as shelf-room, which was equally needed. Of the Society's publications, 17 volumes of Collections, 5 of Proceedings, 4 of Lectures, 2 of the Catalogues, and 3 other volumes have been exchanged. There have been received back into the Library, by exchange or gift, 32 volumes of Collections and 18 numbers, besides 4 volumes of Proceedings. There are now in the Library nearly 19,000 volumes, including the files of newspapers and the manuscripts, and more than 30,000 pamphlets.

During the year there have been taken out 141 books, including 11 pamphlets, and all have been returned. It should be borne in mind, however, that the Library is rather one of reference than of circulation; otherwise the statement of this fact might give a wrong impression of its use.

Mr. Lawrence has continued his gifts, having added, since the last Annual Meeting, 50 volumes and 22 pamphlets, all relating to the Great Rebellion. About one-half of these

were works published at the South during or since the war. The collection in this department is now so full that it is desired to keep it as nearly complete as possible. Every thing is wanted that has even a distant connection with the causes that led to the great and final result. Besides the more formal and pretentious works, the aim is to save funeral sermons, private memoirs, and other publications not widely known or circulated, which relate to persons who took part in the war, whatever section of the country they may have represented in the struggle.

The Librarian refrains from repeating the complaints that have so often been made by his predecessors or himself in regard to the want of shelf-room. Almost every space now available for books is in use, and it will soon be necessary to increase our accommodations. As the Standing Committee have certain changes of the building in contemplation, the Librarian does not enlarge on this subject, which has now become chronic in the annual reports.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Librarian*.

APRIL 14, 1870.

Report of the Cabinet-keeper for the year ending April 14, 1870.

The Cabinet of the Society has received additions during the past year from twenty-five different persons: otherwise, its condition has not materially changed since the last annual report.

Among the gifts worthy of special mention are a well-executed medal in bronze, bearing likenesses of John Gough Nichols, of London, and of Lucy Lewis Nichols, his wife, struck to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage,—Mr. Nichols being a corresponding member of the Society; the cradle of Gov. Joseph Dudley, from Dudley Hall, of Medford; a colored engraving of the Boston Massacre, by Paul Revere, and a curious pencil-sketch of the old build-

ing till lately standing at the corner of North and Union Streets, Boston, including also some of the market-stalls, made by James Kidder, of Charlestown, about 1818,—both from William H. Keith, of Charlestown; eight Confederate flags, captured at different times and places by the United States naval forces under command of Admiral Farragut, and given to the Society by Capt. Gustavus V. Fox, lately assistant secretary of the navy, at the suggestion of Mr. Whitney; an elaborately-carved war-club, brought from the Sandwich Islands in 1797 by Capt. William Ballard, of Boston, and given to the Society by William Ballard of Brooklyn, N.Y., through John J. May of Boston; a collection of sixty-seven engraved portraits of distinguished Frenchmen, from Mr. Whitmore; a framed photograph, colored in India ink, of the members of the Society present at the meeting at the house of the President in June last, from Mr. Winthrop; a portrait in oil of Benjamin Franklin, from Miss Martha B. Wheaton, of Cambridge; oil-portraits of Gov. Joseph Dudley and Rebecca Tyng Dudley, his wife, from their descendant, Henry A. S. D. Dudley, of Boston, and a box containing gold and silver medals and other valuable testimonials presented to Dr. William T. G. Morton in recognition of his claims to the discovery of the anæsthetic properties of sulphuric ether, from his widow.

There has also been placed in the cabinet the collection of coins, &c., of Mr. Savage, which collection was referred to a committee consisting of the Cabinet-keeper, the Librarian, and Mr. Appleton, to examine and report on. Mr. Appleton, who has made a careful examination on behalf of the Committee, reports that “the collection comprises about two thousand coins, medals, &c., in gold, silver, copper, bronze, tin, and paper. There are also some relics of various kinds. A few pieces of particular interest and value have been arranged in a small tray and placed where they can readily be examined.”

In conclusion, the Cabinet-keeper must repeat what has often before been commented on in the reports of his predecessors

in office, and of himself, that the accommodations for the display of the smaller and more valuable articles belonging to the cabinet are quite inadequate, and are such as to repress rather than to encourage the increase of its collection; and he again expresses the hope that some means may be found to do justice to the Society's possessions.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY G. DENNY, *Cabinet-keeper.*

Boston, April 14, 1870.

Mr. LINCOLN submitted the following, which met with a unanimous response:—

Col. Thomas Aspinwall, senior Vice-President of the Society, having declined being a candidate for re-election to that office,—

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to him for his services as an officer of the Society for many years, and for his valuable contributions to historical learning during a long and honorable life.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Wm. G. Brooks, Esq., and Charles C. Smith, Esq., retiring members of the Standing Committee, for their valuable and efficient services in the discharge of the duties of their office.

Mr. BROOKS, from the Standing Committee, spoke of some plans which Mr. Harris, the architect, had prepared at the Committee's request, in view of the contemplated alteration in the Society's building. The subject was laid over till another meeting.

The President communicated the following letter which had been placed in his hands by our Corresponding Member, J. Francis Fisher, Esq., of Philadelphia:—

GEO: TOWN, March 17th, 1776.

I am convinced, my dear Friend, that 'tis unnecessary to give you a circumstantial account of the occurrences w^h have hitherto prevented my acknowledging your two favors. You know me too well to think

it proceeded from Disregard, and I assure you it is not the effect of my Indolence. I wrote some time since to T. Coxe, & have had the happiness of two letters from him.

We are in daily Expectation of hearing some material News from Georgia. Their apprehensions from several of his Majesty's ships which lay in Savannah River with two Transports, containing, 'tis suppos'd, about five hundred Men, were great & not without foundation. Several Merchantmen had receiv'd a quantity of Rice & Indigo on board & proposed to sail (contrary to Resolutions) under the Protection of these Vessels of War, when five hundred Carolineans were ordered to march to Georgia & unrig them, but the Business was dispatch'd before their arrival by some Georgians from the Country. Soon after, many of the regulars boarded the dismayed shipping unseen, & when Cap^t — was sent to bring the rigging on shore & did not return, the People began to be apprehensive of some trick, & were confirmed in their suspicions by the report of two sailors who came on shore. Some unarmed men then were rowed to the Vessels to demand the Prisoners, & they were also detained; the Georgians then threaten'd to fire on them from a Battery hastily raised with two four Pounders, in case they refus'd to liberate the Prisoners, & insulting Language from the ships was the Consequence. The Fire then began, & the regulars declared by Writing that they w^d treat with any two men in whom the People most confided, & no others. Such men accordingly went, accompanied with 12 Rifle-men in an open Boat, & were fired on as soon as they arriv'd close under the stern of Cap^t Inglis's Vessel, but fortunately escaped with little or no damage. A Brisk Firing then began, & a Vessel on Fire set adrift among them, which in a great measure answer'd the Intent; many of the distress soldiery were oblig'd to crawl in the Marsh w^h afforded but little defence from the expert Rifle-men. The spectacle by all accounts was a pleasing, horrid spectacle.

The Insurrection & Defeat of the Scots in N. Carolina, you have no doubt been already particularly inform'd of.

The Inhabitants of Ch^t Town are making all Preparations to receive the Enemy, & seem to wish a trial of their mettle; they have been extremely active in incurring immense Expences by military preparations. "Common Sense" hath made independants of the majority of the Country, & Gadsden is as mad with it, as ever he was without it.

W^m H. Drayton, has been judge, Counsellor, General & Com-

mander of a Ship of War, in the space of a twelve Month. What may we not do, when led on by men of such universal Genius? To be serious, I wish We may not be disappointed in our sanguine Expectations, but I can't help fearing that we undertake matters, which our abilities are incapable of carrying thro'. However, be the consequence what it will I am determin'd to exert myself in defence of my Country & of course in support of the measures adopted, & am only sorry that the Power of an obscure Individual can be of little service. I have been a Month on actual service, & have only been promoted to Feugal-man (I believe I spell wrong) of a Company.

I was not much surpris'd tho' much anger'd at the ridiculous marriage of that little simpleton K. I. * * * * *
 * * As for N. H.'s refusal of thirty thousand pounds & being an honourable Mans Convenience, I look upon it as one of the unaccountable accidents which are constantly turning up in this strange world.

I heartily condole with T. Hanson; the Bargain consider'd in any point of view [*torn*] w^d have suited him well; tell the Major I will assure him success if he will continue his attacks, only let him vary the mode.

I hope Miss N. Bond is well. P. Smith is soon to be married to a Daughter of Henry Middleton. As for Harleston I sometimes see him, but have never convers'd with him; his Father's Death has thrown him into an immense Fortune. My best respects to your sisters & my Compliments to my acquaintances in general. I am sorry Franks is gone to Ticonderoga on my own acc^t, glad on my country's. My Gratitude to him & family is inexpressible & I entertain the best sentiments of that dear Girl his sister. You need not let her know this, for probably it [*may*] lay the foundation for what she is yet a stranger to, Pride. I shall make no apology for this scrawl, but had like to have forgot to mention that I am on a visit to George-town where I soon expect to settle. Poor Biddle is dead; his imprudence got the better of his Constitution. A Gentleman waits Dinner for me, I am therefore oblig'd to hurry more than I wish, to let you know that with impatience I expect a letter from you to

W^m ALEX^r HYRNE.

(Addressed to)

M^r W^m TILGHMAN,
 Philad^a

The following communication from Mr. Fisher, subsequently received by the President, furnishes some interesting annotations on the Hyrne letter : —

PHILADELPHIA, March 10th, 1870.

To the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,
President of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

MY DEAR MR. WINTHROP. — I have been a little doubtful whether I was right in giving the letter of Mr. Hyrne for publication. Its reference to some of the early incidents of the war of the Revolution, and to a remarkable act of hostility on the part of the Carolinians and Georgians before the Declaration of Independence, which I have not seen elsewhere, led me to think it deserved preservation, as evidence of the spirit prevailing in the region where it was written. I have not at hand the local histories which would perhaps throw more light upon the subject.

The letter was found among the papers of the late Chief-Justice Tilghman, and, as well as I can ascertain, is the only one extant of his correspondence with Mr. Hyrne. It should be kept in mind that both were very young; Mr. Tilghman only in his twentieth year, Hyrne probably a little older, as he was a graduate at our Philadelphia College, of the Class of 1773. The name of Hyrne is not, I think, now to be found in South Carolina, though it is remembered as one of a family in the Georgetown district. There are also in our College Catalogue the names of several Carolinians of that period, among them that of John J. Pringle, afterwards a student at the Temple, and a distinguished lawyer in Charleston.

There were a great many from Maryland, of which province William Tilghman was a native, and perhaps also Mr. Hyrne. He must have been very familiar with the best society of Philadelphia, and indeed his letter indicates that we had at that time much more social intercourse with the South than with the people east of the Hudson. I may add that I do not recollect the name of a single New Englander settling in Pennsylvania before the revolution except Dr. Franklin.

Among the names mentioned in Mr. Hyrne's letter I may notice that of Captain Inglis, commander of one of the British ships of war lying off Savannah. He was a native of Philadelphia, a great uncle of my wife's on her mother's side. He entered the Royal Navy when a boy, and rose to the rank of Admiral, dying in Scotland where his descendants reside.

"Franks" was, I think, a native of New York, afterwards Major Franks of the American army, and aide-de-camp of Arnold at West Point. His curious testimony to Mrs. Arnold's innocence of all complicity in her husband's treason may be found in the privately printed preface to the Shippen Papers. His sister, to whom Hyrne makes such a complimentary allusion, was without doubt Becky T., the witty friend and correspondent of General Charles Lee (see his Memoirs). She afterwards married a General Johnston of the British army.

Their father, David Franks, was a wealthy Jew of high social position. He married, I think, a Delancey, and although his oldest son was brought up, according to marriage stipulation, in the Hebrew faith, his daughters made distinguished matches in Christian families.

Miss N(ancy) Bond became the second wife of General John Cadwalader of the army of the Revolution.

P. Smith was Peter Smith of South Carolina, his wife a daughter of Henry Middleton, holding for some months the presidency of Congress after the death of Peyton Randolph in 1776; succeeded in his chair by John Hancock, and in his place as delegate by his son Arthur Middleton.

William Henry Drayton filled all sorts of public places in South Carolina, and was a good deal satirized in the Tory lampoons of the day. See the privately printed poems of the Rev. Dr. Odell. His memoirs were afterwards printed in two volumes octavo. He was not of Drayton Hall (as I have recently seen stated), nor the ancestor of Colonel William Drayton, distinguished in the army of 1812, and afterwards in Congress, perhaps the last Federalist there.

Gadsden was of course Christopher Gadsden, afterwards in Congress, and governor of South Carolina.

I commit the letter and my annotations to your care to present to our Society, and use them as you please.

Believe me, with very sincere regards,

Most respectfully yours,

J. FRANCIS FISHER.

Dr. PEABODY announced the Memoir of the late Alvan Lamson, D.D., as ready for publication; and Prof. PARSONS, through Mr. Deane, the Memoir of the late Charles G. Loring, LL.D.

MEMOIR
OF
ALVAN LAMSON, D.D.

BY ANDREW P. PEABODY.

ALVAN LAMSON, the son of John and Hannah (Ayres) Lamson, was born in Weston, Mass., Nov. 18, 1792. He was fitted for college at Phillips Academy, Andover, and was graduated at Harvard College in 1814. He held a high rank in his class, and was even at that early age distinguished for maturity of mind and character. Of the esteem in which he was held it may be ample proof that he was chosen, on graduating, to the office of tutor in Bowdoin College, then in its infancy, and, while waiting for permanent endowments, seeking to sustain itself in being by the infusion from year to year of the best young life which Harvard could furnish for its nourishment. He afterward studied theology at the Cambridge Divinity School, being a member of its first regularly organized class. He was licensed to preach in 1817, and on Oct. 29, 1818, was ordained as pastor of the First Church in Dedham. In 1825 he was married to Frances Fidelia Ward, daughter of the Hon. Artemas Ward. In 1837 he received the degree of S.T.D. from Harvard University. For nearly forty years he continued at his post, in the quiet, diligent, and faithful discharge of his office, and with uninterrupted health. Then came a season of prolonged illness and disablement, the causes of which eluded medical skill, but from which he was partially restored by rest and European travel. On returning to his work, he found himself no longer adequate to the



Alvan Lamson

severe demands often made upon the minister of a large parish, and a chronic bronchitis rendered the use of his voice in preaching at times difficult and painful. On these grounds, against the wishes, though with the consent of his parish, he resigned his charge in October, 1860. He continued to live among his people, in the kindest intercourse with them, and in the enjoyment of their undivided reverence and affection. With a mind undimmed and active, a serene and sunny temperament, a cheerful home, and an entire freedom from care and anxiety, he gave promise of a lengthened and happy old age. But he was probably more feeble than he seemed. There was, however, not the slightest failure as to mental vigor, or as to the capacity of enjoyment and of ministering to the happiness of others, and only the very gentlest decline of bodily strength, till within a few days of his death. He died, after a brief illness, painlessly and calmly, on the 18th of July, 1864.

Dr. Lamson was pre-eminently a scholar. Well read in the classics, and versed in the methods and results of biblical criticism, he devoted himself chiefly to the study of the Christian Fathers and Christian Archæology. In these departments of learning he was conversant with original authorities, and was himself an always safe authority to those who could not or would with him seek the fountains. At the same time he was a man of general culture, familiar with the best literature of his own tongue and day.

He was indefatigably industrious. Faithful in the discharge of his professional duty, he wasted no time in its conventional routine; but gave to his books all the time he could command, and regarded himself as most truly serving his people by rendering himself more fit to serve them.

His style was marked by precision, simplicity, and purity. It was never diffuse or feeble, and at times it was characterized by rare terseness and energy, especially in controversy. Not that he loved or sought controversy. He was one of the most

peaceful of men. But when circumstances or a paramount sense of duty forced him into the lists, he used his pen as one who meant to lay it down speedily, yet not till it had done full execution.

As a preacher, he was not popular in the lower sense of the word; but he sustained throughout his ministry a reputation among the foremost of his coevals for sound and vigorous thought, elegant diction, profound seriousness of aim and purpose, and the capacity equally of instruction and edification. He was always listened to with interest, and his sermons were most prized by the wisest and best men. It would be difficult to imagine that he should ever have written a feeble, slovenly, or unprofitable sermon. His parish contained many persons of superior position, intelligence, and culture, and he was never held by them in higher estimation than when he was compelled to resign his charge.

In private life he was genial, amiable, kind, hospitable. He can have had no enemy; and, though retiring in his habits, he had many loving and warmly devoted friends. His manners had a little of the formality of the old school of gentlemen, but at the same time the winning grace, the heart-felt courtesy, and the careful consideration for others, that belonged to the highest type of that school. In purity and integrity, in assiduous diligence, in meekness and charity, in a life of unostentatious sanctity, he adorned the religion he preached, and has left a memory which will be tenderly cherished, not alone by his few surviving coevals, but by none more than by those who first knew him when with the ripeness of venerable years he blended the modest simplicity of ingenuous youth.

Dr. Lamson's principal publications were a volume of Sermons, Boston, 1857; and a work entitled "The Church of the First Three Centuries; or, Notices of the Lives and Opinions of the Early Fathers, with Special Reference to the Doctrine of the Trinity; illustrating its late Origin and gradual Formation," Boston, 1860.

This last is a work of very profound research ; and, though the author's conclusions are open to grave doubt and serious discussion, the affluence of his learning, and his candor in the presentation of authorities adverse no less than favorable to his own opinions, will be admitted by none more readily than by his intelligent antagonists.

Besides these volumes, Dr. Lamson published very numerous occasional sermons, and was for many years a frequent contributor to the "Christian Examiner."

LIST OF THE PUBLICATIONS OF DR. LAMSON.

Sermons. 12mo. pp. 424. 1857.

The Church of the First Three Centuries : or, Notices of the Lives and Opinions of some of the Early Fathers, with special reference to the Doctrine of the Trinity : illustrating its late Origin and gradual Formation. 8vo. pp. 352. 1860.

Second Edition of the same, revised and enlarged ; edited by Ezra Abbot. 8vo. pp. 410. 1865.

Pamphlets.

Sermon on the Adaptation of Christianity. 1825.

Remarks on the Genius and Writings of Soame Jenyns, and on the Internal Evidences of Christianity. 1826.

Sermon preached at the Ordination of Rev. Charles C. Sewall, at Danvers. 1827.

Discourse at the Dedication of Bethlehem Chapel, Augusta, Maine, 1827.

Discourse on the Validity of Congregational Ordination, (Dudleian Lecture, 1834).

Sermon on the Sin against the Holy Ghost. 1835.

A History of the First Church and Parish in Dedham, in three Discourses, delivered Nov. 29, and Dec. 2, 1838 ; published in 1839.

A Discourse delivered on the day of the National Fast on occasion of the Death of President Harrison, 1841.

Congregationalism. A Discourse delivered before the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers, 1846.

The Memory of John Robinson. A Discourse delivered at Dedham, Sunday, Dec. 21, 1851.

Impressions of Men and Things Abroad. A Sermon preached at Dedham, Sept. 11, 1853, after an absence of some months in Europe.

Agricultural Life in some of its Intellectual Aspects. An Address delivered before the Norfolk Agricultural Society, Sept. 30, 1857.

A Sermon preached Oct. 31, 1858, the Sunday after the Fortieth Anniversary of his Ordination.

A Discourse preached Oct. 28, 1860, on Resigning the Pastoral Charge of the First Church and Parish in Dedham, after a Ministry of Forty-two Years.

Funeral Sermons.

On Ebenezer Fisher, Jr., 1847.

„ Mrs. Mary Dean, 1851.

„ Rev. John White, 1852.

„ John Endicott, 1857.

„ Hon. James Richardson, 1858.

Tracts (Unitarian).

On the Doctrine of Two Natures in Jesus Christ. 1st Series, No. 20. (Reprinted in England.)

On the Foundation of our Confidence in the Saviour. 1st Series, No. 89. (Reprint of Sermon at Ordination of C. C. Sewall.)

On Earnestness in Religion. 1st Series, No. 188.

What is Unitarianism? 1st Series, No. 202. (Reprint, after revision, of the article on “Unitarian Congregationalists,” in Rupp’s “History of all the Religious Denominations in the United States.”)

In 1830 and 1831, Dr. Lamson, with Rev. S. Barrett, edited the “Unitarian Advocate,” Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, New Series.

In 1835, with Rev. Geo. Ripley, he edited the “Boston Observer.”

From January, 1844, to May, 1849, with Rev. Dr. Gannett, he edited the “Christian Examiner.”

MEMOIR

OF

CHARLES GREELY LORING.

BY THEOPHILUS PARSONS.

MR. LORING was born in Boston, on the second of May, 1794. His father, the Hon. Caleb Loring, was an eminent merchant. His mother, Anne Greely, was a daughter of Captain John Greely, who was killed while defending his ship, a letter-of-marque, against an English frigate, near Marblehead, in the War of Independence. It may be mentioned as an interesting incident, that the commander of the frigate sent his body and his sword to his family, with a letter expressing admiration of his gallantry and courage. Mr. Loring's paternal ancestors were among the earliest settlers at Plymouth, whence they soon removed to Hull, and thence to Boston.

He was during his whole life a citizen of Boston. After attending some private schools, he went to the public Latin School, left it as a medal scholar, entered Harvard College as a Sophomore in 1809, and was graduated in 1812. His high position in his class was shown by his having assigned to him, at graduation, the Latin salutatory oration.

He went at once to Litchfield; and there, in the Law School in that town, prosecuted his legal studies. His room-mate was Peleg Sprague, who had been his classmate in college. Between Mr. Loring and this excellent and eminent man an affectionate friendship grew up, which never knew an interruption.

Mr. Loring completed his professional studies in the office of the Hon. Samuel Hubbard, who was afterwards a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of this State. At that time three years of study were required in this State for admission as an attorney, who was not permitted to argue cases ; after two years more the student became a counsellor of the court of Common Pleas, in which he could then act as advocate ; and in two years more he became a counsellor of the Supreme Court. Mr. Hubbard was compelled to abandon his business for a time by the illness of his wife, while Mr. Loring was in his office ; and, although only a student, he was selected by Mr. Hubbard and deputed to take charge of his business ; and at his request, and with the consent of his clients, Mr. Loring argued several of Mr. Hubbard's cases before the Supreme Court.

He was admitted as an attorney in 1815, as counsellor below in 1817, and as full counsellor in 1819. In 1816 he formed a partnership with his classmate, Franklin Dexter, which continued until 1819, when Mr. Dexter was associated with the Hon. William Prescott, to whose daughter he was affianced.

Mr. Loring would sometimes speak of his early professional career, as if his progress had been slow. But I was admitted to the bar in 1819, four years after him ; my office was near his, and I used to think that his office was full of business. Indeed it still seems to me that Mr. Loring came almost at once into a large business of the best kind. I have known no instance of a young man acquiring so soon and holding so firmly a wide clientage of the most valuable character. There were many causes for this, some of which lay outside of himself. His substitution for Mr. Hubbard was useful ; and his family friendships gave him assistance. The coming into his hands, at an early stage of his career, of interesting cases in which he met with success, was very helpful. But none of these things can do more than help a young man. Often in the biographies of eminent lawyers we read of this or that "accident," as it seems and is called, which lifted them into

notice and began a long course of prosperity. But such accidents lie in wait for most men who are ready to profit by them. Life is full of these favorable circumstances ; but it is not full of instances in which they are turned to the best account. If they are not, they pass out of notice and are forgotten. But, if they are used as they may be used, to lead not merely to an immediate result, but to a success which is not a fruit plucked for to-day but a seed sown to grow and bear its own fruits in long succession, then they are remembered by the man himself and by others, and are referred to as the cause of a prosperity of which they were only the occasion and the means. I do but present the same thought in other words, when I say that the most favorable circumstances can do no more for a young man than give him an opportunity of showing himself as he is. In fact they compel him to show himself as he is ; for, if he fails to improve the opportunity, this failure shows him to be wanting in some of the elements of character which are needed to insure success.

How was it with Mr. Loring ? He brought to the bar good sense ; that kind and measure of learning which is the necessary result of patient, earnest, and intelligent study under good instruction ; the capacity and the habit of industry, or rather of sustained, persistent energy ; a strong and constant sense of fidelity to all duty ; and unflinching courage. It was well for him that propitious circumstances came to him soon after his entrance into the profession. But if they had not come to him, he would have found them, or made them. To a man so well fitted for usefulness in his profession, the question of success was only a question of time and manner ; at some time and in some way it was sure to come.

Mr. Loring was a clear and cogent reasoner. I do not say that he possessed remarkable logical power. But he saw with distinctness the reasons which had led him to a conclusion, and was able to present them to others with equal distinctness.

He was not eloquent, and never sought to be. No one knew better how very small a part of the common civil cases tried in court are in any degree dependent upon what is commonly called eloquence; by which I mean a successful appeal to the passions or emotions. There is, indeed, a true forensic eloquence, by which I now mean a distinct and vivid presentation to the mind of the tribunal of all the facts and principles of a case, so stated that they cannot but be clearly seen, and so arranged as to support each other and lead by an unbroken progress to the desired conclusion. In this eloquence he certainly was not deficient.

His arguments were unusually long. He spoke from a well-prepared brief, and was careful to omit nothing which seemed to him to belong to the case. But he held the attention of the court or jury to the end. I think this was caused mainly by his own earnestness. He was zealous for the interests of his clients, and never concealed his zeal. He always thought he ought to succeed, and it was evident that he labored so strenuously because he thought so. It was impossible that this firm conviction should not exert a strong influence upon a jury, and often awake in them a conviction in sympathy with his own.

It always seemed to me that, if he had been disposed to cultivate the eloquence of the passions, he could have done so with much success. Touches of it were not unknown to those who were in the habit of conversing with him on topics in which he took a deep interest. His strong convictions, his warmth of feeling, his readiness and clearness of expression,—all would have helped him. I may be wrong in this, and certainly am, if he was right in one of his own most decided opinions; for this was, that he had no power of eloquence whatever. I could not quite agree in this, if only from having witnessed one striking instance to the contrary. Very many years ago, I was with him in an action against an insurance company. The plaintiff, an Italian, had insured against fire,

for \$10,000, a large collection of very beautiful works of art. These were stored in the dwelling-house in which he lived with his wife and family. A fire broke out, and the articles were nearly destroyed; and the wife and children of the plaintiff were saved with difficulty. One of the points taken in defence was a suggestion, resting on no evidence, that he set fire to the house to get the insurance money. Mr. Loring, as senior counsel, closed the argument for the plaintiff; and the way in which he dealt with that suggestion, as charging upon the plaintiff, with an utter wantonness of accusation, the great crime of exposing his wife and children to imminent danger of a fearful death, merely to recover by this fraud a sum which was not shown to be larger than a sale of the goods would have brought him, convinced me that he had or might have acquired the faculty of passionate and powerful eloquence. I remember that the jury returned their verdict almost at once, and gave the plaintiff the utmost he could claim under the policy of insurance.

I must not omit to notice one part of his practice, which is large with all eminent lawyers, and was very large with him; that of giving opinions on cases presented to him. For this he was eminently qualified. Learning, a thorough understanding of the principles of law, industry, patience, and caution, all combined to give value to his opinions, and confidence in them to his clients and the community.

At that time the division of labor among lawyers was not, perhaps, so great as it is now, and it is not now well defined. Mr. Loring's cases and business were of all kinds, and in all he was successful. But there were two important branches in which he certainly had no superior, if indeed, for many years, he had a rival. These were the law of marine insurance, and the law of real property.

From 1825 to 1855, he was in full practice in the courts of Massachusetts, and in the United States Courts for this circuit. The published reports of decisions will show that, taking this

whole period of thirty years together, no other man had so large a number of cases in court; and of the cases of no other was the proportion so large of those which, by the novelty of the questions they raise, or of the peculiar circumstances to which they require the application of acknowledged principles, may be considered as establishing new law, or giving new scope and meaning to recognized law.

It must not be forgotten that, through nearly the whole of his most laborious and most successful career, he was impeded by ill health, or would have been impeded but for his resolute, determined energy. What was enough to have doomed a weak man to inactivity, and to have greatly marred the work of a man of common strength of character, seemed not to obstruct or even diminish his usefulness or success. For many years he was subject to attacks of dyspepsia, and of rheumatism or neuralgia, which, not unfrequently, increased in violence until they incapacitated him for a time for all labor. Always, however, when they remitted, he would seem to have with returning health the power of labor so intense as to make up for all the time he had lost. So early as while he was a student in Litchfield, he suffered much from weakness and pain in his eyes. At a later period his ailments seemed to settle upon those organs. He was driven for a short period into utter darkness, but even then did something through the eyes of another. From 1832 to 1840, while in full professional business, he was obliged to employ persons to read to him and write for him. His sight became good, or good enough for much more use in later than in his earlier years. But his eyes never recovered their full strength, and he was often obliged to seek the aid of an amanuensis.

His capacity for labor was great, and his energy seemed to be inexhaustible. But there were times when all gave way under the heavy load that pressed upon him. For example: about the year 1828, a commercial crisis brought many merchants and traders to bankruptcy. We had then no bankrupt

law, and all insolvency was worked out through voluntary assignments. These were confidential, and must be made almost always at night to avoid the interference of attachments until they were completed; often without previous notice and after a hard day's work; and they were long and complicated instruments, as they were necessarily adapted to the peculiar exigencies of each case, and must be made with great and minute care. Mr. Loring had a large proportion of all this business. One evening he came home to draft these instruments for three different firms. He opened the doors between his parlors, placed clerks at each of three tables as distant from each other as the rooms permitted, and, walking from one to the other, dictated in turn to each of them; and in the morning all the instruments for the three firms, each in three parts, were finished. Such nights as these were followed by laborious days. But under this pressure he broke down. Still he continued until, as he said, on going home from his office one evening, he could not find his way, but was obliged to ask from those he met a direction to his own house. Then he gave up and rested from all business for a time; but even then only long enough to enable him to resume it with justice and safety to his clients.

He was in the habit of taking very full notes at the trial of his cases, and of writing out his arguments—generally by dictation—almost at length. It seemed, however, as if this exercise fastened what he would say upon his memory; and in speaking he made little use of his notes, reading from them only what witnesses had said.

Before he reached the age of sixty, in 1854, he had abandoned much of his lesser business, declining a large part of what was pressed upon him, but was still exceedingly occupied with the important work which poured into his hands, and abated no jot of his energy or faithfulness in what he did. But in that year he was offered the position of Actuary of the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company. This office he

accepted and held until his death. It was thought, I believe, a wise selection on the part of that corporation. It was well for them and well for him that he accepted the place. If it did no more for him, it gave him the relief of a change of occupation. It substituted employment of a regular kind, seldom oppressing him by its accumulation, for the professional work, which must sometimes require a long-continued and exhausting tension of thought and effort

He did not, and perhaps he could not, leave at once all his business behind him. Some old cases he must still argue ; a part of them before the Supreme Court in Washington. Clients who were also friends, and he had many such, brought their difficulties to him. He did not try new cases in court, and avoided what he could of the labor of giving opinions or advice, but nevertheless was much occupied in this way ; and this practice he continued to some extent, almost on the compulsion of those who sought his aid, nearly to the close of his life. And disputed cases were often settled by his decision as the arbiter chosen by both parties.

Of the manner in which he discharged the multifarious and important duties of his new office, I cannot speak from personal knowledge ; for that was confined to a few simple cases in which I had occasion to meet him. But the high expectations, founded upon his past life and character, were not disappointed. His knowledge of law and his familiarity both with the principles and practice of trusts were eminently useful. A thorough gentleman, if ever there was one, he was none the less a thorough man of business. No thought of suspecting his integrity ever entered into any man's mind. In all questions between the corporation intrusted to his management, and those who had claims upon it, his fairness was never doubted, while his protection of the trusts in his hands was perfect. In manner he was courteous, and equally so to all ; but his gentleness was not to be imposed upon, for it was guarded by a sharp-sighted sagacity and strengthened by a

firmness which was only firmness and not obstinacy. The general belief that he was the right man for that place, which existed when he took it, was constantly confirmed during all the years that he held the office.

I would not omit to state, as an incident in his life, that in 1823 and 1824 he was the commander of the New-England Guards. He discharged the duties of this military office with the zeal and efficiency which characterized his performance of the duties of his profession. He was proud of his company, of their full ranks, and their excellent drill as light infantry, infantry of the line and artillery ; for they were trained in all these forms of military discipline.

In politics he was deeply interested, and was never absent from the polls when it was possible to attend them. Without ever being what might be called a thorough-going partisan, he had decided convictions upon party questions, which, in their essence, did not vary through the changes of the party names from Federalist to Whig or Republican. Although often solicited, he never accepted public office, until, in 1862, he became for one year a member of the Senate of Massachusetts, holding therein the office of Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and of the Committee on Mercantile Affairs.

In 1849 he was invited by Governor Briggs to take the place in the Senate of the United States vacated by Mr. Webster's resignation ; and in 1853 he was invited by Governor Washburn to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Everett's resignation. Both of these invitations he declined, after much consideration and consultation with friends, some of whom advised him otherwise. Among his reasons for these refusals was the smallness of his fortune, and the necessity thereby imposed of continuing his professional labors. With all his opportunities to accumulate property, never here surpassed in his profession, the moderation of his charges, the liberality of his expenditure, and the greater liberality, or I might say lavishness, of his gifts, prevented his acquiring wealth. According to his way

of considering such things, his acceptance of the office of Senator of the United States would have involved as a duty his leaving his profession. He said to his friends that he had not studied the science of politics, nor accustomed himself to a sustained investigation of its principles, or of the questions which arise when those principles are applied to practice. And he thought himself too old to begin a new career.

Let me now gather up some other incidents in his course. In 1832, when the cholera, after raging through Europe, was expected in this country, Mr. Loring was active in forming a large relief association to visit and care for the sick and dying. At that time, the fear of this pestilence, which was thought to be contagious, amounted to panic. He accepted the office of chairman of a committee charged with the duty of attendance upon the sick; and personally visited the earliest cases, and spared no efforts and no exposure which could bring order and efficiency into the arrangements for the sick, or mitigate their sufferings.

In 1834 occurred that most violent and most disgraceful riot in which was destroyed the Ursuline Convent in Charlestown. Great efforts were made to discover the ringleaders, and bring them to their deserved punishment. At a large meeting in Faneuil Hall, Mr. Loring was appointed chairman of a numerous committee charged with the investigation of this crime. The committee had many sessions, and in the discharge of this duty he labored assiduously for many weeks. At the close he made a full report, stating the processes and the results of the examination, and the evidence thus obtained was of great service in the subsequent legal proceedings.

He was always and thoroughly an earnest lover of freedom, and therefore was opposed to slavery; and an extensive tour through the Southern States had strengthened his belief in the essential wickedness of slavery as it existed there, as well as its enormous mischief. He did not, however, join the Anti-slavery party, because, while he sympathized with them in the

ends they sought, he was unable to approve of the means and measures by which they sought to reach that end; but this sympathy he never hesitated to express or to manifest in such ways as he could. In 1851, when the trial of Sims, an escaped slave, took place before the United States Commissioner, he appeared as his counsel and made the closing argument.

In 1835 he was appointed a Fellow of Harvard College, and retained that office until 1857; and during all this period he was a most active, interested, and useful member of the Corporation. When in 1850 a controversy arose between the Corporation and the Overseers as to their respective rights and duties, Mr. Loring made a long report on the subject, afterwards published in a pamphlet form, in which he gave an exhaustive review of all the historical facts and legal principles bearing on the questions considered, and presented an able and conclusive argument in support of the views held by the Corporation. He was especially active and instrumental in terminating the former connection of the Divinity School with the College and placing it in its present relations. He was much interested in establishing the Society of the Alumni, which he believed would strengthen the interest of the graduates in their Alma Mater.

In connection with Mr. Loring's relations with Harvard College, it should be mentioned that in 1865 he was chosen to preside at the ovation given by the College to her sons on their return from the war. No appointment could have been more acceptable, and no person could have better discharged its peculiar and difficult duties, in the various preparatory arrangements and on the day of the ovation.

He was also chairman of the committee of fifty, in whose hands was placed the charge of gathering funds for, and the construction of, the edifice which Harvard College is now about to build, as an enduring memorial of all of her children who offered, and of the many of them who gave, their lives to their country.

In 1853 he went with Mrs. Loring to Europe, and travelled over many parts of that continent. But his longest visit was to England, where he passed some months. I am sure he was very happy there, and I believe he was very useful. His letters of introduction and his reputation secured to him access to the highest ranks of English society. In the Diary of Henry Crabb Robinson, recently published, under the date of June 24, 1853, he speaks of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Loring at Dr. Boott's house, in London. He says, "The star was Loring," then gives the substance of a long conversation with him on American politics, and adds, "I have seen no one who judges seemingly with so much candor as Loring."

At that time there was a strong disposition among many of the leading men in England to understand us better; and not in casual conversation only did he give them information, but they sometimes sought it directly. A gentleman of much distinction asked him to meet at his house a number of men who were eminent in name or station, and who wished to comprehend better than they had been able to—what must be an enigma to European statesmen, and is not I fear so well understood by ourselves as it should be—the true place of the judiciary among our institutions.

How is it, said they, that when a law is enacted by Congress and approved by the President, with the written constitution before them, there comes another body, which, possessing no legislative power, may annul this law by their simple declaration that it is, in their judgment, "unconstitutional"? There was a free and full and long conversation on this subject. Mr. Loring did his best to explain it, and no one could do better. He told me that he considered himself as, on the whole, unsuccessful. Indeed, one of the most eminent among them said to him in parting, and while expressing his thanks for the information they had received, that he still found it a very obscure matter, and doubted whether he fully comprehended either its principle or its working.

When the War of Secession broke out, he entered upon the questions and the duties which it presented with all the vigor and enthusiasm of his character. His second son entered the army, went through the war, and came out with high military rank. His only grandson old enough to bear arms served with honor. He was himself too old to fight otherwise than with the pen. But that weapon he used ably and usefully. Besides many addresses at public meetings, which were reported and published, he wrote often and earnestly upon the topics suggested by the events of the day, sending his articles to newspapers; and most of these were afterwards published in pamphlet form.

The first of them which I will notice bears the title of "A Reading upon the Personal Liberty Laws of Massachusetts." It consisted of two long articles published in the "Boston Daily Advertiser," Dec. 31, 1860, and Jan. 3, 1861. It relates to the statutes of Massachusetts, "enacted," says Mr. Loring, "as is universally known, under the influence of the strong indignation pervading this and other States in reference to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, and of recent outrages in Southern States upon citizens of the Free States; and evidently indicative of that emotion, rather than of legislative equanimity." These laws had been severely attacked and their constitutionality denied, especially in "An Appeal to the Citizens of Massachusetts." The decisions and the arguments bearing upon the question were fully considered by Mr. Loring, and he reached the conclusion that these laws, if fairly and rationally construed, were strictly and certainly within the constitutional powers of the legislature of Massachusetts.

In 1862 appeared the largest, and, under some points of view, the most interesting of these pamphlets. It was called, "Correspondence on the Present Relations between Great Britain and the United States of America." It consisted of letters which passed between Mr. Loring and Mr. Edwin W. Field, an eminent solicitor of London and very able man, with

whom Mr. Loring had become acquainted while in England. Mr. Field was one of those Englishmen, who, while they were cordial friends of this country, and hated slavery (he calls the theory put forth in its defence "devilish doctrine"), nevertheless thought that England was justified in the course she had pursued in "the Trent affair," and, generally, in her treatment of us; and that we were mistaken in our resistance to Secession, and that our wiser course would be to let the Slave States go off if they would, leaving the Free States all the better for having got rid of them. I indulge myself with quoting one brief passage from Mr. Field's first letter. It was written at his country seat on Hampstead Hill; and, besides the pleasant picture it presents, exhibits in few words the main purpose of all his letters:

"As long as you treat us like gentlemen (I think Seward's waiting to see what we did, when he thought all the while we were right, was more like a lawyer than a gentleman), I don't believe the Emperor of the French himself, with all the cotton-lords (and they will be few) he can enlist, will persuade us towards moving to break the blockade, even though it be ever so paperish a one. So far for politics: now to 'pastures new.' . . . Last summer we had a lone house for our sketching quarters on the Thames, twenty miles below Oxford: a ferry was attached to it, which one man was obliged to work day and night too, if the passengers could wake him. I spent many and many a pleasant hour, when saturated with sketching, in sailing my New York centre-board little boat, the 'Yankee;' the star-spangled banner, of course, in full fly at the peak. The Great Western Railway crossed the Thames near us; and, quiet as was the land and water, the trains in mid air brought thousands of eyes to admire the boat and the beautiful flag. What will be the issue of its stars from your troubles? I have said I will no more politics, or I must have added a word or two why we think our old saying, 'Good shut of bad rubbish,' should be the doctrine of your policy, as the best way of getting rid of the plague of slave recognition and its devotees."

As the correspondence went on from Jan. 16 to Nov. 13, 1862, the whole subject, under all its aspects, was thoroughly ventilated. Both writers were gentlemen, and cordial friends.

Both wrote in perfect freedom, but not a word is there savoring of unkindness or discourtesy in the whole correspondence. I thought then and I think now that the whole argument was exhausted. I have seen nothing since on Mr. Field's side which was not said or suggested by him; and the replies of Mr. Loring were direct, cogent, and, as it seems to me, conclusive. This pamphlet attracted much attention both in England and in this country, and must have exerted a considerable and most useful influence.

I must not permit myself to notice these pamphlets in much detail. In 1863 were published, under the title of "Neutral Relations of England and the United States," a series of articles which had appeared in the "Boston Daily Advertiser," from Aug. 20 to Sept. 25, 1863. They examined thoroughly, and from a lawyer's point of view, the conduct of England in relation to the "Alabama" and the "Florida," and her other breaches of neutrality; and in 1864 were gathered in a pamphlet bearing the title of "England's Liability for Indemnity; Remarks on the Letter of Historicus, dated Nov. 4, 1863, printed in the 'London Times,' Nov. 7, and repeated in the 'Boston Daily Advertiser,' Nov. 25th." This pamphlet passed through two editions, and neither this, nor that on "Neutral Relations" must be forgotten or neglected by those who have to maintain in any way our own doctrine, that the claims of this country against England are something more than what Historicus saw fit to call them, when, in a letter, which at that time found much acceptance in England, he permitted himself to say: "This 'tall talk' of claims against Great Britain for prizes taken by the 'Alabama' is mere nonsense, which has no color or foundation either in reason, history, or law."

In 1866 he published his last work. It was a pamphlet of one hundred and twenty-six pages, bearing the title of "Reconstruction. Claims of the Inhabitants of the States Engaged in the Rebellion to Restoration of Political Rights and Privi-

leges under the Constitution." I could not condense within narrow limits the close reasoning of this pamphlet, even if this were the place to attempt it; and must content myself with quoting the concluding paragraphs. They will serve as a specimen of his style; but I quote them rather because they express strongly an opinion, a principle, and a feeling, of which, through all the excitements and discussions of those stormy times, he never lost sight; and which, I permit myself to say, there never seemed to me more need than there is now to remember and to invigorate.

"He cannot, however, leave the subject without adverting to a possible misapprehension of his views upon the importance and sacredness of the rights of the States under the Constitution, which might arise from the nature of the discussion which has been attempted. It will be observed, that his only object has been to vindicate the sovereignty of the General Government against the assaults made upon it by advocates of the rights of inhabitants of States who had renounced allegiance to it, and had engaged in civil war for its overthrow; and, consequently, that the discussion has been almost exclusively confined to considerations of the relations of the States to the General Government in that aspect only, and of the subordination and limitations of State sovereignty rather than of its attributes. But none can be more profoundly impressed, than he believes himself to be, with the essential importance and inviolability of the rights intended to be secured to the several States under the Constitution. He accounts their individual independence and sovereignty over the domestic relations and municipal law, and the internal governments of their respective inhabitants, as the very foundation-stones of the National Government. The preservation of this sovereignty and independence, to the fullest extent warranted by the Constitution, he considers to be chief among the fundamental principles of American statesmanship; as the only means possible of maintaining a free and energetic government over territories of extent so vast as those already comprised within our national boundaries; as the safest barrier against attempts at executive usurpation; as the main bulwark against the natural tendency of the General Government, as of all others, to consolidation and centralization of its authority; and which, not thus controlled, attaining at first to the exercise of arbitrary power by the many, would, as all his-

tory prophesies, eventually terminate in practical despotism ; and, above all, as the sufficient and only instrumentality for educating and disciplining successive generations in the knowledge and practice of political rights and duties, by which alone they can be made capable of self-government.

“ And no one will hail with profounder gladness a just perception on the part of the inhabitants of the Rebel States of their true relations to the Government, and their return to their constitutional places in the Union, which, unhappily for us all, they have made vacant.”

In all of these writings, the argument of Mr. Loring is always calmly, if sometimes urgently, expressed. He labored to give whatever force he could to his reasoning ; but was conscious of his strong feeling, and on his guard against an inappropriate expression of it. To me, as I now read them over, this reasoning seems to be extremely strong, and, for the most part, conclusive. It could not convince those who were unable to admit the principles which he assumed, holding them indeed as axioms ; and it cannot be necessary to say that all reasoning, upon any subject, must begin with truths that are taken for granted. Nor could he hope to influence those who had already confirmed themselves in opposite conclusions. I am sure, however, that no candid reader could for a moment doubt that his views were most carefully and elaborately thought out, and were honestly believed to be rational and just ; and that this reasoning had led himself, and was offered that it might lead others, to conclusions which he held most sincerely and most firmly.

His style as an author may be said to be in exact accordance with his character and his habits of thought ; as, perhaps, every author's must be to some extent. It is strong, direct, and clear ; with no attempt at eloquence, and not one particle of affectation. He manifests, as was before intimated, a desire to avoid exaggeration, but no wish to escape from an honest exhibition of his strong feeling and decided conviction. There is but little ornament, and none for the sake of ornament. His words are a transparent medium for his thoughts ; and as they

were never the special object of his own care, so they do not catch the attention of the reader, and turn it aside from his meaning. In his writing, as in his whole life and conduct, he sought for and he found the becoming and appropriate; and more he did not seek. He desired to appear well always; but seeming was to him of far less value than being.

It may be added, as illustrating a trait of his character, that, when he began to write for the public, he complained that his style, which was formed by the habits of a speaker, was bad for a writer. It was diffuse, not always accurate, or constructed with sufficient care. Old as he was he set himself, to use his own phrase, to learn to write; for his sense of duty was never satisfied unless whatever he had to do was done as well as it could be done. His friends thought him rather a severe critic of his own work; but some effect of his efforts may be traced in his successive productions.

He was one of the founders of the Union Club in Boston, and labored earnestly in establishing it and in promoting its interests, in the belief that it would exert a useful influence in forming and cherishing a spirit of patriotism among its members, and through them in the community. He was President of the club at his death.

It was not only with his pen, but with his voice, that he labored in those days of peril and disaster. He was willing to speak always when he thought he could be useful. In 1864, when Mr. Lincoln was a candidate for re-election, a meeting was called in Faneuil Hall, at which Mr. Loring presided. His opening address was published in the papers. The following passage, quoted from it, may serve as a fair specimen of his style in public speaking, and as an expression of the profound feeling which urged him to do his utmost through all that fearful conflict.

“It is no question of merely personal preference of one candidate over another, nor the ascendancy of a political party in the government of the country; no question of expediency in finance, of internal econ-

omy, of foreign diplomacy, or even of fundamental construction of the Constitution. But it is one which underlies all these. It is the question whether our National Union shall be preserved; whether we shall continue to exist as a great and independent nation, capable of self-government at home, and possessing power to protect ourselves from foreign aggression and to secure the enjoyment of 'the mildest rule the sun ever shone upon,'—or shall be split into any number from two to thirty-four or more of distinct, weak, and distracted municipalities, with clashing interests and embittering jealousies, to drive us eventually into military despotism, as our only refuge from anarchy and perpetual war."

His father belonged to the Congregational Society, worshipping in the West Church, Lynde Street, Boston; and Mr. Loring remained all his life a member of it. No one who knew him doubted the reality and strength of his religious sentiment. But of doctrinal religious belief he seldom spoke. He called himself a Unitarian; but precisely where he stood in the wide circle of those who bear that name, I know not, and doubt, indeed, whether he had sharply defined this place in his own mind. For many years of the most active part of his life, he was the Superintendent of the Sunday school of that Society. His attendance was constant, and his lessons were carefully and conscientiously prepared; and his addresses to the children were thought by associate teachers and others who heard them to be among his happiest efforts; and after he resigned the office of Superintendent he would occasionally visit the school and address the children, even to the last year of his life.

He had always a remarkable power of approaching the young, and exerting an influence over them,—not children only, but young men, and especially the numerous students who were prepared in his office for the labors of their profession. This was due, in large measure, to the fulness of sympathy with which he entered into their states of thought and feeling. In this respect, as in many others, the freshness and vitality of youth were undimmed in him by the shadows of advancing age.

Let me now speak of him as he was at home,—the home which he made a happy one for all whom it sheltered, and where he found the happiness he valued most.

In 1818, at the age of twenty-four, he married Miss Anna Pierce Brace, of Litchfield, with whom he had become acquainted while a student in the Law School at that place. This union, founded upon the sincerest mutual affection, was one of uninterrupted happiness, until it was terminated by her death in 1836. In 1840 he married Miss Mary Anne Putnam, a daughter of the late Hon. Samuel Putnam, a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. She was one of several sisters who were noted for their charming manners and attractive qualities. She died in 1845. He married in 1850, Mrs. Cornelia Goddard, widow of George A. Goddard, and daughter of the late Francis Amory, of Boston. This lady still survives him; and I refrain from saying more than that they were worthy of each other; and there need be no higher encomium upon either.

By his first marriage Mr. Loring had two sons and two daughters, all of whom survive him. By his third marriage he had one child, who died in infancy.

Mr. Loring was eminently hospitable. No trait of his character was more salient or more constant. Let me repeat a remark I heard made recently by one who spoke from experience: "In their house you found the perfection of hospitality with an entire absence of display." He was one of those who found their pleasure in giving pleasure to others. His acquaintance was extensive; and strangers visiting Boston and bringing with them any distinction of position or of merit, were usually entertained by him, and through him obtained access to his wide circle of friends.

His winters he passed in Boston. But in 1844 he purchased, for a summer residence, a farm on the Beverly shore. It was then a common farm, nowise distinguished from others, but in its bounding upon the sea, its wide and smooth beaches, its mas-

sive rocks, and its beautiful trees, which in many places came down to the water side. He saw its beauty; and he had the taste and skill to improve this to the uttermost. He built a modest house, which only by successive additions became large enough to meet the needs of his hospitality. There he spent his summers; coming to Boston as the requirements of business called him, or, when he could, taking his papers to Beverly and working over them there. It would be difficult to say whether he found most enjoyment in the thorough cultivation of his farm, or in that skilful development of its beauty, which has left it without a rival among the many charming estates which lie along that lovely shore.

The same thoroughness and industry with which he tried his cases and gave opinions, and commanded his military company, and discharged his other duties, he brought to bear upon this new employment. He studied gardening and farming, reading the best books on those subjects, and putting in practice what he learnt from books. He examined the nature of the soil, and improved the different fields by putting on them the different chemical ingredients they required; he ascertained what fruits were best adapted to the seashore, and the best rotation of crops for such a farm, and the special effects of different manures; and took great pains and spent much money in obtaining the most useful and valuable animals. He did all these things systematically and kept a full record of his doings. And it gave him great pleasure when the neighboring farmers, who laughed at him at first, began to consider him as an authority, and to profit by his experience and instruction. We used to think he felt more pride in being considered a good farmer, than in his success as a lawyer.

The free access to his place which he permitted to all alike, strangers or friends, should not be omitted, for it illustrates that most prominent trait in his character which I have already stated and am glad to refer to again, the pleasure he found in giving pleasure to others. He had a large barn upon

his place, built at great cost, and so skilfully adapted to agricultural purposes that it was regarded as a kind of model, and brought persons, some from a considerable distance, to see and study it. This he liked ; but there was another thing about it which I believe he liked still more. It made the best play-place possible for the children of his neighbors, when heat or rain made them seek its shelter. I lived one summer in his neighborhood, and my grandchildren were with me. They soon found out where to go to find companions and to sport at pleasure ; and he provided for them there means of amusement. When I went there to look after my contribution to this noisy crowd of little ones, he would often come in, never casting any restraint upon them by his presence, but always enjoying their enjoyment.

Well do I remember his eagerness, as the spring opened, to go to this beautiful home. And there he lingered until approaching winter drove him back to Boston. He bought the place when his health was much broken, in the hope, which the result justified, that he should find invigoration not only in the rest and pleasant occupation it afforded him, but in its atmosphere, which gathered from the sea a bracing influence, and in that sheltered spot was not so harsh and bleak as it is too apt to be on our Atlantic shore in the "Easterly days" which alternate rapidly with our summer heats. Its immediate neighborhood was full of pleasant roads, leading through beautiful and singularly diversified scenery. This was not a small advantage to a man of his tastes and habits. So much sedentary occupation and mental labor made it necessary for him to take active and regular exercise ; and finding he could get most of this, with the least expense of time, in the saddle, for many years he rode every day, and never gave up this habit. He had fine horses and was proud of them. I think he was proud, too, of his skill and hardihood as a horseman : he certainly had a right to be so.

Dearly did he love that beautiful home, much of whose

beauty he made and all of it he enjoyed. There he passed his summers, which were always too short for him. And there, after some months of much pain and constant discomfort, which it was hard to bear, but which he bore with his accustomed patience and fortitude, he died, on the 8th day of Oct., in the year 1867.

On the evening of June 13, 1818, some young men met, by the invitation of Mr. William H. Gardiner, in his room, in the house of his father, the late Rev. Dr. Gardiner, to form a club. They did so; and others were added in the three years immediately following, until the whole number was twenty-four; none were afterwards received; Mr. Loring became a member in the first year. It never had any name but "Club," and was neither cumbered nor helped by any rules. We met on alternate Tuesdays, supping, and in later years dining, together. For a short time there was some endeavor to give it a literary character; and some of the papers read there were published in numbers under the title of "The Club Room." But this soon came to an end; and probably not half a dozen complete copies are in existence: I should not know where to find half as many. The club became merely conversational, and has always so remained. In its earlier years, when we all had many engagements and amusements, our attendance upon it was not regular or constant; but it became so in later years. This club is mentioned in Mr. Ticknor's charming memoir of W. H. Prescott. I speak of it now for two reasons. One is, that Mr. Loring was one of the most constant attendants and took the deepest interest in all that concerned it. We all—I am sure I may speak for others as well as for myself—valued it exceedingly. Conversation there ran through all imaginable topics. It was always free, always perfectly unrestrained. We had known each other so long and so well, that the thought of any disguise or concealment could not occur to us; for never perhaps was there a society of such men, all of

whom were so thoroughly acquainted with the tastes and characters, the opinions and the feelings, on all subjects, of each other. There was abundant diversity among us; but if there was seldom entire agreement, still more seldom did disagreement become discord. In the old phrase, we agreed to disagree; and one of the causes of the unabated interest with which it held us all was the certainty that any subject discussed there would be considered by one or another under most of the aspects which it could present. One reason for speaking of this club has been given; it was the interest which Mr. Loring took in it and the value he set upon it. There is another; for it was there that I learned to know him, and, as I believe, to know him thoroughly. When, many years ago, I was in the practice of my profession, we met in our cases, sometimes acting together and sometimes in opposition. I saw much of him in court, in cases in which I was not concerned, and met him not unfrequently; but it was in the club that I saw him most and saw most of him. His presence could always be counted on, unless he was held away by some potent obstacle; for, as he often said to us, he permitted no engagement or occupation which he could control to keep him away. These lines may fall under the eyes of those who did not know him; and to them it may be well to say that if no one more enjoyed the social pleasures of the club, no one added more to them. Interested in every thing which interested others; pouring forth with the perfect unreserve of long and intimate friendship all his thought and feeling, and welcoming equal unreserve on the part of others, the club was to him, and he helped to make it to us all, a means not of entertainment merely, but of that ripening of thought which could not but grow out of—sometimes the collision and always the freest intercourse—of minds which represented almost every phase of opinion or of sentiment upon almost every subject.

The last time I saw him was in his house in Beverly, in July, 1867, where, in accordance with his usual custom, after

our regular winter meetings were over, he invited us to dine with him at the season when his beautiful place was most attractive. Never was he more hospitable; never did he give to his guests a kinder or more cordial reception. But even then it was evident to us that his health was failing, and that he thought it was failing. The disease had then at least begun, although its true character was unsuspected, which soon after developed its fatal power, and terminated his earthly life.

At that dinner, in reference to some remarks made at the table about old age and its insidious decay, he said he was so much afraid of this, that he had bound three different friends upon whose judgment and fidelity he could rely, by a solemn promise, that, if they saw symptoms of approaching imbecility which he did not himself detect, they would tell him so at once, and thus prevent his continued hold upon duties which he could no longer faithfully and fully discharge.

Mr. Loring closes a letter, written on the day after that dinner, to one of our number who could not be present, — Mr. W. H. Gardiner, — thus: “We had a very quiet but genial session, as becomes our age and our regard for each other, and I think all enjoyed it much. You were most affectionately remembered throughout the day; and I need not say your absence was most deeply regretted with profound sympathy for its cause. We did not forget you in our talk, nor in a heart-felt pledge to your health and welfare. Club is one of the brightest of the rays of our setting sun; — but that is already touching the horizon.”

For him it indeed touched and soon sank beneath his earthly horizon. Nor can it linger long in the darkening sky of the few — five only — of the members who still remain here. But while any one of them retains his memory, the recollection of those meetings, and of the friend who was held to us by ties to which not only personal regard but fifty years of intimacy had given strength, cannot be lost.

I do not forget that I am writing this memoir for another

and very different body of his associates; but I must ask them not to forget that if the warm, true, earnest friendship of the man were not made prominent in any portraiture, it could not be faithful to him.

I am not willing to close this imperfect memoir of Mr. Loring without presenting a trait, which none who knew him could fail to observe: I refer to the singular purity of his life and conversation. No person ever heard a tale, an allusion, a word from his lips, which would have been forbidden by the strictest morality or the highest refinement. Seldom, if ever, was any thing said in his presence, which might not be said in the presence of women by one who felt their refining and protective influence. There was indeed something feminine about him. This man, in whom all the elements of manliness were gathered, had also much of the delicacy, the tenderness, the ready and affectionate sympathy which belong to women. And these parts of his nature harmonized. Always courteous, there was a kindness in his courtesy when the object of it was a woman, which was the same to all, and could not be greater to any than it was to all.

I would mention yet another trait. He could be indignant and express his anger with abundant plainness or severity. But he could not sneer. No one ever heard from him any sarcasm. He enjoyed the sportive wit and pleasantry of others; but, to be enjoyed by him, it must be wit that did not sting. I have more than once referred to his most characteristic disposition to find pleasure in giving pleasure. I only say the converse of this, in adding that he could not take pleasure in saying what gave pain or in witnessing the pain such words gave. Then, he did not join in the laugh: his sympathies were on the other side.

There was a singular mingling of conservatism and enthusiasm in his character. Believing that the institutions and arrangements of society were on the whole good and wholesome, and firmly convinced that the condition of mankind had ad-

vanced through the past and was still advancing, not rapidly, and not without alternations, but not more slowly than was needed to make this advance real and permanent, he had little faith in violent and convulsive reforms ; and looked with dislike and fear on efforts and on changes which some regarded with exulting hope. To those who favored and urged on those movements, he seemed to belong to the party of retardation rather than to that of progress. And yet through his whole life, every effort, individual or organized, which seemed to hold out any promise of preventing, or removing, or lessening wrong or suffering, had not his sympathy only, but whatever assistance he could render. To enumerate all such instances would be to tell how all his years went by. I have omitted, for example, his interest in the Aid Society for Unfortunate Children, of which he was President ; his earnest efforts to resist the annexation of Texas, and, later, the invasion of Kansas. Of such things, and of others less in importance but of like kind, it would not be difficult to give a long list. I have abstained from this, wishing only to mention facts and incidents which were needed to illustrate his character. Of those who knew him best, some may think that in this way I have failed to do him justice. On the other hand, I am not insensible to the danger that this sketch — and it is no more — of the distinctive characteristics of a friend so dear to me may seem, and may be, overcharged. No portrait can seem lifelike or be faithful if it be wholly without shadow. I would willingly tone my picture down, as far as I may with truth and honesty.

In the first place, then, I do not present Mr. Loring as a genius ; as having one of those great intellects which by an admitted supremacy makes its possessor a giant among common men. He had excellent sense ; his insight into persons and facts was more than commonly rapid and penetrating. His power of acquiring knowledge was, I think, unusual, although the constant labors of his whole life had prevented his giving to his mind a wide and diversified culture. This indeed

was made impossible by the condition of his eyes. Always weak, sometimes very painful, and generally becoming so with almost any attempt to use them in reading or writing, it seemed to us a marvel how he could do, and do so thoroughly, such an immense business. In his later years his eyes were stronger. Then only, and not often then, could he open a book in the evening. But he made use of whatever opportunity came to him to enlarge his acquaintance with the best literature of the day. His memory was strong and prompt: it held firmly whatever was committed to it, and offered it up for use readily and accurately. Whatever ability he had was strengthened and disciplined by constant exercise. His superiority, however, lay more in his character than in his intellect. He always seemed to me an excellent illustration of one of the wisest sayings of that wise man, Dr. Thomas Arnold, the great English schoolmaster. A friend wrote to him, asking what general truths or principles had most strongly impressed themselves upon his mind, as the result of his long instruction of so many young men, his intimate acquaintance with as well as his deep interest in them, and his careful observation of them not only as pupils but in their subsequent careers of failure or success. I quote from memory only, but Dr. Arnold's reply, in substance, and nearly in words, was, "There is nothing I am more sure of than that force of character constantly wears the aspect, wins the name, and does the work, of force of intellect."

Mr. Loring's temper was, usually, and indeed almost uniformly, sweet and calm; but he was sensitive, and sometimes irritable. It appeared to me that his ailments and nervous excitability had much to do with this; and the strength of his convictions and the positiveness of his belief had still more. But if in conversation he ever grew too insisting, peremptory, and impatient of reply, and if his urgency ever passed beyond the limits which a due regard for the rights or the feelings of others would have set, I think he saw it as soon as any one, nor was it ever long before his gentleness and courtesy renewed their sway.

And now I find myself wholly unable to add to this list of demerits. Let them have their due effect and weight. I earnestly desire to present him only as he was. How indeed could I remember who it is that is the subject of this brief memoir, and not permit the recollection to compel me, if I needed the compulsion, to seek to be, in all I say of him, truthful and just?

SPECIAL MEETING.

A Social Meeting of the Society was held at the house of Mr. WILLIAM S. APPLETON, 39 Beacon Street, on Thursday evening, April 28th, the President in the chair.

The President read a letter from Mr. Charles J. Hoadly, of Hartford, which contained the following passage:—

In reading, not long since, Archdeacon Hale's "Series of precedents and proceedings in criminal causes, extending from the year 1475 to 1640, * * illustrative of the discipline of the church of England," Lond. 1847, I met, on p. 259, with the enclosed, relating to one of the early assistants of Massachusetts. It is of very little importance and very likely not new to you, though I do not remember to have seen any reference to it in any of the books published on our side of the water.

["29 Nov. 1636.

ARCHDEACONRY OF ESSEX."]

"*Sandon. Contra Thomam Sharp-et Tabitham ejus uxorem, Thomam Sharp, juniorem, et Annam Wittam.* * * They doe all refuse to bowe at the blessed name of Jesus, or to stand up at the Creed, according to the cannon: but doe scoffe at the minister and others that doe. The said Tabitha did not come to be churched in a vaile; nor did kneele by the communion table, accordinge to the Rubricke: The said Sharpe is a common depracer of the government ecclesiasticall, and of the rites and ceremonies of this church, since his cominge from Newe England. * * Citentur."

The asterisks are in the print. Sandon is the name, I suppose, of the parish.